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A

NARRATIVE

OF

PROCEEDINGS,

TENDING TOWARDS A

NATIONAL REFORMATION,

Previous to, and consequent upon,
HIS MAJESTY's ROYAL PROCLAMATION,
For the Suppression of VICE and IMMORALITY.

IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED,

The Resolutions of the PONTEFRACT Sessions ;
The Representation of the Grand Juries of
LONDON and MIDDLESEX, with the Steps taken thereon ;
The ROYAL PROCLAMATION ;
The Letter of the SECRETARY of STATE ;
And other curious and interesting Matters.

By a COUNTRY MAGISTRATE.

LONDON :

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ROBINSON; J. STOCKDALE, and H. GARDNER.

MDCCLXXXVII.



INTRODUCTION.

THE PROCLAMATION, which his Majesty has been graciously pleased to issue for the suppression of vice and immorality, and for the promotion of religion and virtue throughout his kingdom; as it is an additional demonstration of his Majesty's paternal love of his subjects, is also a new and additional call upon all that are honoured with his Majesty's commission, not only to preserve the Peace, but also to keep, as well as cause to be kept, all ordinances and statutes made for the conservation thereof; to chastise all persons offending against the laws, and to punish all constables and other officers who shall be negligent or remiss in the execution of their office.

It is earnestly to be hoped, that the persons concerned, Magistrates, Parish-officers, and others, will take this matter into their most serious consideration ; and apply their utmost endeavours to a business so intimately connected with the interest and the happiness of society ; to which they will doubtless feel

themselves yet further encouraged by this recent declaration of his Majesty's will and pleasure.

The late applications which have been made to the Magistrates of the first commercial city in Europe, and to those acting in the county of Middlesex; together with the spirited and excellent resolutions of the Justices at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held last year at Pontefract, in the county of York, and renewed with additions this year at the same place (all which are here subjoined); happily demonstrate, that a spark of laudable zeal for the Glory of GOD, and the welfare and good order of the community, hath been some time kindled, which it will well become the Magistrates of every county throughout the kingdom to cherish and support, till the good purposes are effected, which are therein severally set forth.

This, it is presumed, cannot more effectually be done, than by a diligent attention to those penal laws, which have an immediate respect to the following crimes :

1. Drunkenness, and disorderly conduct in ale-houses and other places of public entertainment.
2. Cursing and Swearing.
3. Gaming, especially in public-houses,
4. Lewdness and Debauchery.
5. Profanation of the **LORD's-DAY**.
6. Publication of obscene and impious books, prints, &c.

With

With respect to the first of these, it is universally allowed, that there is no circumstance whatever, which calls for more circumspection, prudence, and resolution in the Magistrate, than that part of his duty, which relates to his controul over public houses and the keepers of them.

That many are opened without any licence at all; that many are improperly licensed, being more in number than are necessary, and being in situations very dangerous and remote from the public eye; and that very many of those which are licensed are irregularly conducted, are facts which no one will venture to contradict: that through negligence, or undue regard to his own interest, the publican is wont to give encouragement to the pernicious vice of drunkenness, which leads to ruin such multitudes of the lower class, and entails such a heavy burthen of expence on the sober part of the community, who are bound to support them and their families, is a matter which deserves our most serious attention: and it becomes absolutely necessary for the Magistrate to consider the intention of the Legislature, in framing the present subsisting laws against both the seducer and the seduced; as well the publican, who encourages drunkenness, as the drunkard, who suffers himself to yield to the temptation. These are fully set forth in the following Abstract of several Penal Laws; which it is hoped will be diligently enforced,

with steadiness without severity, and with zeal without indiscretion or partiality.

2. That PROFANE SWEARING AND CURSING is an high offence against the Law of GOD, is not more certain, than that it is a flagrant violation of good order, and even of good manners in any civilized society ; and therefore the interference of the Magistrate is absolutely necessary to suppress, as much as possible, a vice of such magnitude, and at the same time so utterly inexcusable : this can only be done by punishing all offences of this kind, which come within his own immediate knowledge ; and by being most ready to receive such information of this offence, as appears to be brought forward with a sincere desire of effecting the reformation of the offender. But more especially is the Magistrate called upon to reprobate, in the severest terms of reprehension, and to consign to public punishment, all *willing* offenders against the laws respecting PERJURY, when, in his judicial capacity, they present themselves before him. A wilfully perjured person should never be suffered to go out of court with impunity. The penalties annexed to this species of profaneness will also be found in the following abstract.

3. GAMING, especially in public houses, being a practice of so ruinous a nature, it is not to be wondered at, that so many laws have been enacted with such very heavy penalties annexed, for the discouragement of this

this vice, and to deter persons from permitting it in their houses. These statutes are hereafter recited; and it is seriously to be lamented, that they are here mentioned, with no great hope that they will be inforced with much energy or good effect; while a practice so prejudicial to the interests of society, as well as of the individuals concerned, is too generally encouraged by the superior orders of men and women throughout the kingdom. Yet surely it will be judged expedient, that the Magistrate, in his public character, should discourage the growth of this evil as much as possible, by enforcing the laws against keepers of public houses, who allow of any species of gaming, or instruments for that purpose, in their houses; and by refusing to renew the licence of any person, who, after admonition, has been known to suffer any kind of gambling, whether with cards, dice, skittles, shuffleboard, or any other means whatsoever. If it should be urged, that skittles and such like recreations are necessary for the labouring manufacturer, who is chiefly confined to his house in an unwholesome air within a city or large town; it is answered, that the purposes of *health* would be much better effected by some manly diversion, accompanied with no temptation to gambling or excessive drinking, in some field or open place in the suburbs of the city, than in the air of an inclosed and crowded spot of ground, little better than that

from which he came, as it is said, for the purpose of air and recreation. Under this article of *gaming* may be comprised the evil practices of jugglers, mountebanks, and cheats, who should not be suffered to establish themselves for an hour within the jurisdiction of a Constable, or a Justice of the Peace; especially as they deal in an article of inestimable value, and often rob those that are dupes to their artifices, of that *health of constitution* which is the poor man's best, and oftentimes his only, earthly comfort.

4. **LEWDNESS AND DEBAUCHERY.**—This is an offence, so injurious to that *health* just mentioned, as well as so repugnant to the Law of God, that it must not be suffered to pass unnoticed by the Magistrate; who yet, except in the case of notorious houses of ill fame, and in the case of bastardy, the natural consequence of lewdness, may find himself under some difficulties as to the proof, and as to the punishment of it; though, in the recital hereafter made of crimes and penalties, he will find, that lewdness is punishable both by the common and statute law: Whatever allowances the magistrate may be inclined to make for the frailty of human nature; in all cases of bastardy (and too many, God knows, will occur), he will have opportunities, which as a good Christian, and a good citizen, he ought to improve, of admonishing the offending parties of the nature of their crime, and of their duty

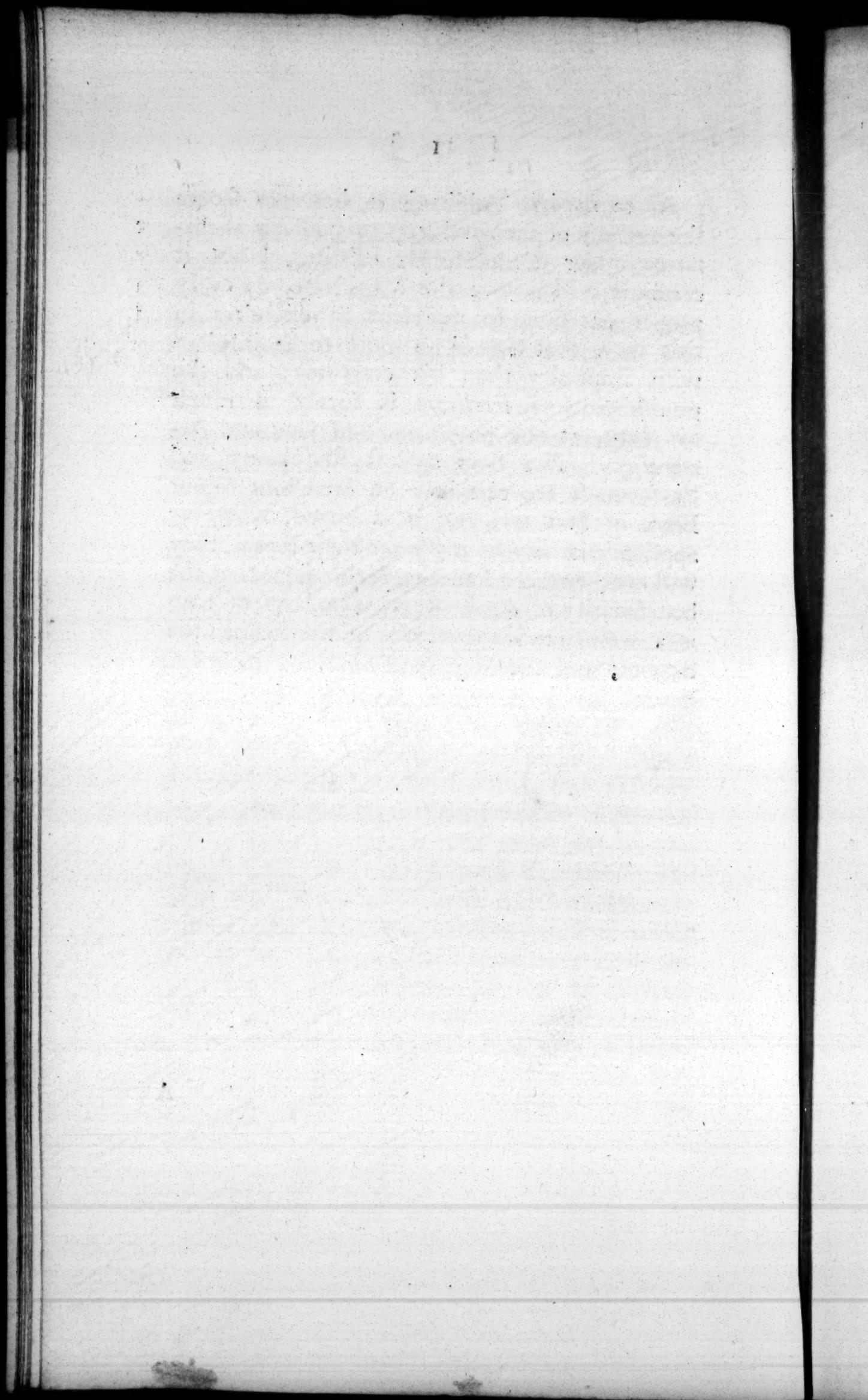
to endeavour to repair the evil in the best manner that they can, by living virtuously together for the future; under the sanction of that rite, which the laws of GOD and man have provided, for the purpose of preserving virtue and chastity in the world.

5. THE PROFANATION OF THE LORD'S-DAY being, as it must needs be, a matter of serious concern to every reflecting person, appears to have had a considerable share in the several representations lately made to the Sessions, and is very particularly attended to in his Majesty's late Proclamation. He who has lived in the habitual neglect of the duties of this day, and has, in consequence of it, grown negligent of his conduct in every other instance, has been often known in an expiring moment, when there is little room to question men's sincerity, to have acknowledged all his misconduct to have originated here. Having shaken off a due respect for the worship of GOD the restraint of human laws soon lost its force, till he became profligate and shameless. This consideration should set the Magistrate upon viewing *every act* of profanation of the Sabbath as a proper subject of his reprobation; because there is nothing so apt to make men sit loose to every other obligation of duty, as an allowed disregard to that which so immediately concerns the honour of Gov. The laws of men, as will appear in the table annexed, very wisely concur with the divine law

law in this particular; and the Magistrate, who by his example, and by his authoritative interference, shall contribute to the due observance of both, will by every wise and good man be considered as a friend to religion, and the welfare, regularity, and good order, of society.

6. THE PUBLICATION OF OBSCENE AND IMPIOUS BOOKS, PRINTS, AND PAMPHLETS, is perhaps one of the most mischievous offences of all that have been recited: it strikes at the very root of that purity of heart and conduct, upon which our character, even as a civilized nation, depends: this crime against the laws of decency and virtue may surely be considered as a nuisance of the first order; and is punishable by indictment as such. However popular may be the arguments in favour of the *Liberty of the Press*, the licentious abuse of it in this instance is certainly inexcusable. Much mischief is also done by the dispersion of indecent ballads through almost every village in the kingdom; wherein it is not at all uncommon to see the cottage-wall *decorated* with songs and stories of a most mischievous tendency; and therefore, trifling as the object may at first view appear, it is by no means undeserving of the attention of the Magistrate, and of all those, who wish to promote the decency, morals, and good order of the lower classes of the people.

As to *impious* Publications, however secure the authors of such writings may esteem themselves under dormant, yet existing, laws, it certainly will behove the Magistrate, on every proper occasion, to represent to offenders in this way, that GOD is no more to be insulted with impunity than his creatures; and the punishment of *irreligion* is surely as much his duty, as the punishment of vice and *immorality*. The laws against Blasphemy and Profaneness are certainly an ornament to our Book of Statutes; and it is hoped, whatever applications may be made for their repeal, they will ever remain a standing declaration, that the best security of obedience to the laws of men is a well-founded reverence of the Name, the Service, and the Majesty of GOD.



A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

DEAR SIR,

AS I know you have been no unconcerned Spectator of the progress which Vice has been of late years making amongst us, it is impossible that you should be indifferent about the success of certain steps which have been lately taken, and are now taking, for the national good: they are intended, whatever may be the effect, to check, if possible, that torrent of wickedness, which, uncontrolled, might carry desolation with it through this country, and bring down the judgments of GOD on a devoted people. The watchful concern of our Gracious Sovereign for the welfare of his subjects, was never more conspicuous than on the present occasion; and his Majesty has been pleased, in his wisdom, to pursue the best measures in his power, to bring his subjects to a due sense of their negligence of Divine and Human Laws. His own good example has at no time been wanting; it is now high time to exert his authority also: he has accordingly strengthened the hands, and quickened

quickened the zeal of those, who are invested with authority under him, to adopt such measures, as may be effectual to enforce the laws for the conservation of the Peace, the discouragement of Immorality, and the discountenance of Irreligion amongst us. I verily believe, Sir, you will find, in the course of a few months, such a spirit of reformation excited among magistrates, parish-officers, and others, as will be very satisfactory to your wishes, both as a member of society, and a Christian.

To suppose that a design of this nature should receive no check or discouragement; to suppose that it should meet with universal approbation and support; would be to suppose those evils not to exist, for the remedy of which these means are about to be applied. *Fools make a mock not only at Sin, but at those who would correct it.* Wicked men strengthen each other, by a contemptuous defiance of the prohibitions and injunctions of every kind of authority; and their language is, “Our lips are our own, and our actions are our own:” “who is Lord over us?” This, however, is as foolish in its principle, as it is mischievous in its effects. With respect to the Sovereign of the World, it is the language of downright Atheism: With respect to the Laws of Society, it is the most dangerous Libertinism. The one is not admissible in a Christian country; the other not sufferable in a civilized and well-ordered state. Mens lips are not surely

surely so much their own, as that they should be permitted to curse and to blaspheme with impunity: nor are their actions so much at their own disposal, as that they should be allowed to defy the controul of the Laws of God and their country. Neither the one nor the other, especially under our well-constituted government, lays the least undue restraint on any reasonable desire or pursuit: both the religion which we profess, and the laws by which we are regulated, tend equally to promote our happiness and prosperity: and I lay this down as a maxim, that it is impossible to deviate from either, without a wilful forfeiture of our claim to that happiness, which is the result of obedience to the Laws of both. The best citizen, and the best Christian, will always be the happiest man in himself, the most serviceable to others, and the most respectable in every part of his character: so uniformly do the ordinances of Heaven, and the statutes of every wisely regulated nation, co-operate with, and support each other.—But I fear you will begin to think me too serious; and affecting rather the language of a Preacher, than of a Magistrate; who feels himself called upon to lend his hand, feeble as it is, to assist with others in the most glorious, the most truly patriotic, work of reformation. I will therefore immediately proceed to lay before you the series of those proceedings, which have hitherto taken place in this business; wherein

it

it may give you some pleasure to observe, that those persons, whom you have often seen held up to public view, with every mark of illiberal contempt (I mean the *Middlesex Justices*), have been, on the present occasion, actuated by the truest spirit, urged by the purest motives, and animated with the most laudable zeal, to co-operate with his Majesty, in recommending that *Righteousness which exalteth a Nation*, and in discountenancing those sins, which are a *reproach to any people*.

To begin then with the steps first taken by the truly respectable Magistrates, acting in the County of *York*; who certainly ought not to be deprived of that tribute of praise which is so justly due to them, for having adopted, at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden at Pontefract, on Monday the 24th of April 1786, some very salutary and excellent resolutions, respecting the great business of reform in question: these, as being first in order of time, have a claim to precedence in this narrative, and are as follows:

*At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of the Lord
the King, held at Pontefract, on Monday the 24th day of
April, 1786, before Thomas Earl of Effingham, Chairman;
Henry Wood, Doctor in Divinity; Joshua Wilson, Henry
Wickham, Esquires; James Wilkinson, Clerk; Bacon
Frank, Esq; Henry Zouch, Clerk; Pemberton Milnes,
Johnson Atkinson Busfeild, Anthony Surtees, Robert Athorpe
Athorpe, Edmund Barker, John Blayds, and John Dixon,
Esquires, Justices of the Peace.*

WHEREAS idle, disorderly, and dangerous persons, of all descriptions, are constantly wandering about, and the commission of crimes and offences hath increased to an alarming degree:

It is Resolved;

1st, That it be earnestly recommended to the principal inhabitants of all places, to agree in uniting together, under certain rules and regulations, for the better purpose of detecting felons, cheats, vagrants, night-walkers and night-poachers, pawn-brokers, who are often guilty of mal-practices, and particularly in receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be such, sellers by false weights and measures, persons adulterating or improperly mixing meal, flour, &c. and, in short, all those who are in any way guilty of a breach of the law.

2. That some regulations ought to be made in the appointment of proper constables; and that they be required to exert themselves in bringing to justice offenders as aforesaid, (as they will answer the contrary at their peril); and that they be also required to be particularly vigilant in the time of horse-races, fairs, feasts, markets, or other public meetings; evil-disposed persons, of different kinds, being known to resort thither, for the more convenient purpose of carrying on their unlawful designs.

3. That it would be of great public benefit, if all Justices of the Peace would please to hold a special session, in their several districts, once a fortnight (as it

is already done in several parts of this Riding), or even oftener (at least for some time), if they find occasion for so doing.

4. That private searches should be made in *every district*, as near the *same hour* as may be, a day or two previous to such sessions, where offenders (vagrants chiefly so) may be brought to *speedy justice*, by being *immediately corrected*, or otherwise dealt with according to law.

5. That, was this mode of proceeding to be carried into full effect, offenders would find it difficult to escape from justice, the public peace would be greatly secured, the office of a magistrate would become less irksome, large sums of money would be saved, which are now lavished away in apprehending, keeping in prison, conveying vagrants, and others; parishes would be eased of the trouble and expence in relieving persons who travel with passes, and whose whole lives are often spent in perpetual vagrancy; and a final stop might in a great degree be put to those numerous beggars, who actually extort money by imposing, under various pretences, upon the ignorance or credulity of others.

6. That the great number of public-houses, and especially those which are kept by *improper persons*, or in *improper situations*, are productive of various mischiefs: and therefore, until such time as a reduction of them can be effected (which is much to be desired), it is a matter of great moment that the occupiers of such houses offending against the law should have their licences with-held, their recognizances esreated, or be otherwise punished, according to the nature of the offence.

7. To prevent the increase of these houses, the clergy, parish-officers, and others, are requested not to grant any certificates, to enable persons to obtain licences, unless they have full satisfaction of the truth to which they *subscribe*, and that such house is really *wanted* for the public convenience: and further, that such certificates should be communicated to the Justices of the division four weeks previous to their holding their *Brewster* sessions.

8th. That houses of evil-fame, common brothels, houses for harbouring of vagrants, and such like, are in many

many places become a notorious grievance ; and that it is the interest, as well as the duty of every man, to exert himself in suppressing them.

9. That as many persons are discouraged from apprehending and prosecuting offenders, by an idea of the great expence thereof, it is proper to declare, That all Judges, and Justices of the Peace, are empowered by law to grant an adequate allowance to prosecutors and witnesses : Justices of the Peace also, out of sessions, are ready to make every liberal gratification to those who pursue, apprehend, or convey offenders to prisons : And in many places there are subscriptions, or monies collected by way of assessment, for the above purposes.

10. That in those places where *Sunday Schools* have been opened, their good effects are plainly perceived, in the orderly and decent comportment of the youth who are instructed therein : It is therefore most earnestly to be wished, that those virtuous citizens, who have begun this good work, would continue their best endeavours to forward it, with that zeal and perseverance, which its great importance requires. And if these institutions should become established throughout the kingdom, there is good reason to hope, that they will produce an happy change in the general morals of the people, and thereby render the execution of criminal justice less frequently necessary.

That these Resolutions were carried into execution with no inconsiderable benefit, may be collected from the subsequent proceedings, of nearly the same magistrates at their General Quarter Sessions, held at Pontefract, on Monday the 16th of April 1787 ; wherein they think proper to adopt some other Resolutions of material consequence ; not only calling on parish and peace-officers to do their duty, but requesting the *general* assistance of persons, whose rank, situation, and fortune, may give them

them influence in the neighbourhood in which they reside, though they do not take upon them the trouble of acting as Magistrates. Many objects of great importance are here suggested, as will appear from the following transcript from their minutes.

At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at Pontefract, on Monday the 16th day of April, 1787; before Joshua Wilson, Esq; Chairman; Thomas Earl of Effingham; Henry Wickham, Esq; James Wilkinson, Clerk; Bacon Frank, Esq; Henry Zouch, Clerk; Pemberton Milnes, Johnson Atkinson Busfeild, Anthony Surtees, Robert Athorpe Athorpe, Edmund Barker, James Stovin, John Blayds, John Becket, John Dixon, and Francis Edmunds, Esquires, Justices of the Peace.

THIS court having the satisfaction to find, that in conformity to the *resolutions* respecting the public police, which were adopted at the Quarter Sessions held last, at this place, the joint exertions of peace officers, and the principal inhabitants in many parishes, have been already productive of great benefit to the country.

It is Resolved,

1. That without the general assistance of well-disposed persons, it doth not seem probable that the laws can be carried into such full effect, as to introduce any great reformation in the manners of the people, or *prevent* those criminal excesses which are known every where to exist.
2. That all constables are hereby required, as soon as may be, to call a meeting of the inhabitants within their respective districts, and to represent to them the *necessity* there now is for all honest men to form themselves into committees, or otherwise to associate themselves, as well in aid of the civil magistrate, as to superintend and regulate all parochial matters, those especially relative to the poor,

poor, and the highways, where the overseers appointed are incapable, or are negligent in the discharge of their duty.

3. That the summary proceedings against the keepers of irregular ale-houses, being (for want of more frequent informations and prosecutions against such offenders) insufficient to correct the several notorious abuses committed therein, all constables and peace officers are charged and commanded, and all other persons are earnestly requested, whenever they find any disorders committed in ale-houses, to give *immediate information* thereof to a justice of the peace, that the offending parties may be *then* punished, or that, a list of such offenders being kept, their licences may be stopped, or their recognizances forfeited.

4. That the number of ale-houses in this riding being much greater than is necessary, no new ones shall be licenced, till the present number shall be *considerably reduced*; and that no licence shall be granted but *on the day* annually appointed for that purpose; and not to any person who applies for such licence for the purpose of setting up a dram-shop.

5. That alehouse-keepers may not be led to plead ignorance of their duty, they are to take notice, That whosoever of them shall encourage bull-baitings, cock-fightings, illegal horse-races, or other diversions, which serve to *bring together* loose and idle persons, gamblers, cheats, pick-pockets, &c. will be proceeded against in the most exemplary manner: And it is further expected from them, That whenever night-poachers, or any suspicious persons, particularly when such persons are strangers or travellers, shall resort to their houses, they do give the speediest notice thereof to any constable or justice of the peace, at they will answer for their neglect herein.

6. That prisoners of *all kinds*, by being confined together in the house of correction, not only encourage one another to continue in their evil courses, but do *there* form the most dangerous connections; and besides, when set at liberty, being generally without money or cloaths, or at a distance from their respective homes, are necessitated

tated to become beggars or thieves. The master of the house of correction is required, previous to the expiration of the time for which any offender is committed, to apply to a justice of the peace, that the party may be examined to his settlement, and sent home by a pass; or otherwise disposed of, as the case may be: And such master of the house of correction (when directed by the justice) shall give notice by letter, or any other proper way, to the constable of the place to which any offender shall be sent, stating the offence, and communicating such other circumstances as may be thought necessary.

7. That when any person is committed, of whose character some particular inquiry shall be thought necessary, it may be proper for a justice of the peace to direct the master of the house of correction, to advertise him, or to give notice of his commitment to the constable, or some acting magistrate, or both, in or near the place where the offender belongs, or where he last abode.

8. That the commitment of disorderly servants, apprentices, vagrants, and others, upon penal statutes, is known to be attended with many ill consequences; it seems that the ends of public justice would be more effectually answered, if persons of this description were to be imprisoned for a very short time only (and in *solitary cells*, as soon as such cells can be provided), and corporally punished when the law will admit of it: that servants and apprentices should then be immediately returned to their masters, and vagrants and others conveyed to their several homes.

9. That proper books be provided by the master of the house of correction, in which he is to enter the names, places of abode, age, and the offence, of every prisoner committed to his care, or make such other entries as may be thought necessary.

10. That this court doth recommend to the gentlemen, clergy, and leading inhabitants of all parishes, to *promote* by every means in their power (more likely to attain the wished-for purpose than any compulsory law,) the institution of *friendly clubs* or *societies*, where inferior labourers, manufacturers, and others, may advance

vance a small quarterly sum, for their support in sickness or old age. It is certain that *institutions of this kind* do tend to reduce the poor rates, to encourage a spirit of industry, and a habit of œconomy, and to afford a pleasing reflection to the subscribers, that they shall not be obliged to seek for relief from others, at a time when they most of all require it.

Resolved unanimously, That Joshua Wilson, Esq; the Chairman, be desired to return the thanks of this court to the magistrate who proposed these resolutions, and the former ones at the sessions held here in 1786; and that they be published in the several news-papers within this county; and also that duplicates thereof be sent to every constable throughout the West Riding.

JOSHUA WILSON, Chairman.

What influence the above-mentioned proceedings of one of the most respectable counties in the kingdom might have upon those of our great metropolis, or whether it had any, I will not presume to say; I think it more probable, that what has here been done within these few months in this great work, rather originated from what was * daily passing under the eyes of those respectable persons, who formed the Grand Jury of the City of London, at the Sessions of Oyer and Terminer held at the Old Bailey in April 1787, when they thought proper to bring forward to the Lord Mayor and Judges on the Bench, a *Memorial* relative to certain immoralities and enormities, which they considered as highly

* A specimen of which I shall give you by way of Appendix.

necessary to be laid before the court, in order to their suppression and reformation. This Memorial was contained in the following words ;

To the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR, and Court of ALDERMEN of the City of London.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE, the Grand Jury of the City of London, humbly present this Memorial with great concern, seeing the increasing profanation of the Sabbath-day by great numbers of shops being opened, and fruit stalls standing in almost every street of the city, particularly Cheapside, White-chapel, and Bishopsgate-street, also numbers of tipling-houses open during the time of divine service, and also loaded carts, waggons, and stage coaches proceeding in their usual business as on other days of the week, to the great encouragement of vice and immorality, and consequently tending to the increase and multiplying the melancholy business on which they have been just engaged : they therefore hope that this honourable Court will consider the same, and take such proper steps to suppress this growing evil as to their wisdom shall seem meet.

The reception which this Memorial of the London Jury met with, we may reasonably suppose gave occasion to a similar proceeding in the County of Middlesex.

The fact is, that on Thursday, May the 24th, 1787, the Grand Jury of the County of Middlesex, composed of some of the most worthy characters in the county, struck with the propriety of the former proceeding in the City, and hoping to see the good effects of it,

as well throughout the county as in the Metropolis, made their representation also of offences against the Laws of GOD and their Country, which, in their opinion, called aloud for the attention of the Magistrates, and a more vigorous exertion of their authority.

The Representation was as follows:

SESSION-HOUSE, CLERKENWELL-GREEN.

24th May, 1787.

WE, the GRAND JURY empanelled to enquire of, and to present Offences committed within the *County of Middlesex*;

Observing with great Concern the Depravity and Dissipation which prevail at this Time, do beg leave to represent to the Magistrates of this County the Necessity which we conceive there is, for a more active Execution of those wise and wholesome Laws which have been framed for the Maintenance of Peace and Good Order.

We conceive one Source of Mischief, and *that* a great one indeed, to arise from an unlimited Number of Ale-houses being suffered to be kept open Night and Day, without Order or Regularity; where Tipling, Gambling, and all kinds of Vice are not only permitted but encouraged, where Thieves and Prostitutes are harboured and protected.

We are persuaded, were these Places, and the pernicious Consequences of them, properly represented to the Magistrates, they would not be annually sanctioned.

The great Number of Places of Public Entertainment—some permitted by Authority—some in Defiance of the Law—appear to us to be another Cause of that general Spirit of Dissipation and Extravagance, which so particularly distinguishes the present Times.

Much

Much use and security to the Public, we apprehend, might be derived from a more active and diligent attention to the Laws relating to Vagrants, and clearing the Streets and Villages of Beggars, which have increased beyond conception.

The great Number of Prostitutes who fill the most public and populous Streets in the Town, by Day as well as by Night, attended by Thieves of the most desperate Sort, are both a Disgrace to our Police, and a Terror to the Public.

We cannot omit what must distress every good Citizen to observe, the general Inattention to, and Prophanation of the Lord's Day, notwithstanding the Encouragement given to the Observance thereof, by the laudable Institution of Sunday Schools, and the general Approbation of them.—This disregard of the Sabbath (which we conceive to be a principal Cause of the growing Vices of the Times) particularly in Young Persons of both Sexes, appears to be an Object which calls for the serious Attention of those who are entrusted with the Powers of enforcing this important branch of our Laws: In many places we observe Shops open, and Business carried on in the Public Markets, without restraint, and Stage Coaches and Waggons travelling to and from all Parts of the Kingdom, at every Hour of the Lord's Day; also Gambling in the Fields and Public Gardens, Tea-Houses and Taverns to an incredible Number, opened all round the Metropolis, with invitations to them upon the Walls in every Public Street and Avenue of the Town.

We will not trespass further by enumerating more Particulars, nor presume to point out how these Evils may be prevented. We trust, however, that the Magistrates will take the same into their serious Consideration; and adopt such measures as may be most expedient; and that some check at least may be given to that general Spirit of Depravity, which seems to be increasing with the most rapid Progress.

John Peter Blaquire, *Foreman.*

Thomas Boddington
John Barwick

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Gilbert Parke
Benjamin Reynolds
Jere-

Jeremiah Percy
 Francis Hammond
 John Bond
 Harry Haughton
 William Harrison
 John Pepper
 Peter Moore
 Robert Jones

Henry Delamain
 Hammond Crosse
 William Sharp
 Isaac Ardesoif
 Joseph Foskett
 Marmaduke Langdale
 Edward Bond
 Nathaniel Clarkson

This Representation was received by the Court with unanimous approbation; the Grand Jury received, at the time of their delivery of it, the thanks of the Court, delivered in elegant and pathetic terms by the Chairman; who repeated those thanks more at large, in a manner which did himself great honour, and much affected every hearer, when they were dismissed at the close of the Sessions.

The Court, having received the Representation, immediately took into Consideration the very important contents of it. A Committee was appointed to deliberate and point out the best means of reforming the evils complained of; who were to report their opinion thereon to the Court; which they did on Saturday the 26th, in the following words:

SESSION.

SESSION-HOUSE, CLERKENWELL-GREEN.

Friday, 25th May, 1787.

A Representation having been made at this Session, by the Grand Jury for the County of Middlesex, of sundry enormities, which, in their opinion, call aloud at this time for the exertion of the Magistrates, and a vigorous execution of the laws; and the same having been received by the Court; and the Court having resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to consider the several particulars submitted to the Magistrates, and also what steps are proper to be taken there, in order to answer the salutary purposes of the Grand Jury in this their Representation; the said Committee, to whom it was referred, make this their Report to the Court; *viz.*

“ That the Committee have attentively considered the general purport of the said Representation referred to them; and are of opinion, that the most proper measures for effecting the good and salutary purposes of it should be adopted.

That it would be proper for his Majesty’s Justices of the Peace in Session, to transmit the Representation of the Grand Jury to the several parishes within this County; and to point out the several Acts of Parliament relating to the offences therein specified, with short extracts from those Acts of Parliament, together with a recommendation from the Session to the several parishes, to enforce the laws in general which relate to the maintenance of peace and good order.

That it be recommended to the several parishes, to be particularly careful, to cause representation to be made to the Magistrates (previous to, or at the time of their general licensing public-houses) of the conduct of the several victuallers in their respective parishes: Whether they keep good order? Whether they suffer gambling, or tippling at unseasonable hours? Whether they have any skittle or nine-pin grounds, or any gaming-places of any kind?

That,

That, at the Justices meeting, for the purpose of granting licences, a particular information may be obtained by them, concerning the conduct of the several persons applying for a renewal of their licence, and how their business has been carried on.

The Committee beg leave to submit to the judgement of the Court, that the said Representation of the Grand Jury, when transmitted to the several parishes within the County of Middlesex, might, if the Court should think proper, be accompanied with some such preamble as this.

Middlesex. It being the earnest wish of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in and for the said county, that the Representation made to this Court, at their Sessions of the Peace, on Thursday the 24th of May, 1787, should be properly attended to, and the good purposes of it effected; they have thought proper to transmit the same, together with the very respectable names subscribed, to the several parishes in this County; and that the laws respecting the several matters complained of may be generally known, they have subjoined Extracts from the Statutes relating thereto, hoping that the Parish officers and principal inhabitants will exert themselves, to see that the said Statutes be duly carried into execution, in matters which appear to them of so much consequence to the preservation of the peace and good order, as well as the safety and happiness of the people.

And the Magistrates think it their Duty, to recommend it to every parish, to pay a particular attention to that part of the said Representation of the Grand Jury which respects the Ale-houses, as a most important and essential step towards putting a stop to the evils complained of.

All which the Committee submit to the farther consideration and determination of this Court."

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The Court having approved this Report, referred back the matter to the same Committee, to adopt such measures as they might deem conducive to the beneficial purposes of the representation of the Grand Jury, and to carry the same into full effect.

This was referred to them on Saturday May the 26th; and in the midst of their deliberations hereupon, on Saturday June 2d, was issued, in consequence of his Majesty's most gracious and ready disposition to co-operate with his subjects, in whatever may be of general benefit and advantage to his kingdoms, *A Royal Proclamation*, which, for many reasons, it may not be improper here to insert at full length.

By

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION

For the Encouragement of PIETY and VIRTUE, and for preventing and punishing of VICE, PROFANESS, and IMMORALITY.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS we cannot but observe, with inexpressible concern, the rapid progress of impiety and licentiousness, and that deluge of profaneness, immorality, and every kind of vice, which, to the scandal of our holy religion, and to the evil example of our loving subjects, hath broken in upon this nation: we therefore, esteeming it our indispensable duty to exert the authority committed to us for the suppressing of these spreading evils, fearing lest that they should provoke God's wrath and indignation against us, and humbly acknowledging that we cannot expect the blessing and goodness of Almighty God (by whom Kings reign, and on which we entirely rely) to make our reign happy and prosperous to ourself and our people, without a religious observance of God's holy laws; to the intent that religion, piety, and good manners, may (according to our most hearty desire) flourish and increase under our administration and government, have thought fit, by the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby declare our royal purpose and resolution to discountenance and punish all manner of vice, profaneness, and immorality, in all persons of whatsoever degree or quality, within this our realm, and particularly in such as are employed near our royal person; and that, for the encouragement of religion and morality, we will, upon all occasions,

casions, distinguish persons of piety and virtue, by marks of our royal favour: and we do expect and require, that all persons of honour, or in place of authority, will give good example by their own piety and virtue, and to their utmost contribute to the discountenancing persons of dissolute and debauched lives, that they, being reduced by that means to shame and contempt for their loose and evil actions and behaviour, may be thereby also enforced the sooner to reform their ill habits and practices, and that the visible displeasure of good men towards them may (as far as it is possible) supply what the laws (probably) cannot altogether prevent: and we do hereby strictly enjoin and prohibit all our loving subjects, of whatever degree or quality soever, from playing, on the Lord's Day, at dice, or any other game whatsoever, either in publick or private houses, or other place or places whatsoever: and we do hereby require and command them, and every of them, decently and reverently to attend the worship of God on the Lord's Day, on pain of our highest displeasure, and of being proceeded against with the utmost rigour that may be by law. And, for the more effectual reforming all such persons, who, by reason of their dissolute lives and conversation, are a scandal to our kingdom, our further pleasure is, and we do hereby strictly charge and command all our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other our officers and ministers, both ecclesiastical and civil, and all other our subjects, to be very vigilant and strict in the discovery and punishment of all persons who shall be guilty of excessive drinking, blasphemy, profane swearing and cursing, lewdness, profanation of the Lord's Day, or other dissolute, immoral, or disorderly practices; and that they take care also effectually to suppress all gaming houses and other loose and disorderly houses, and also all unlicensed public shews, interludes, and places of entertainment, using the utmost caution in licensing the same: also to suppress all loose and licentious prints, books, and publications, dispersing poison to the minds of the young and unwary, and to punish the publishers and venders thereof; and to put into execution the statute made

made in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of the late King Charles the Second, intituled, *An Act for the better Observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday*; and also an act of parliament made in the ninth year of the reign of the late King William the Third, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual suppressing of Blasphemy and Profaneness*: and also an act passed in the twenty-first year of our reign, intituled, *An Act for preventing certain Abuses and Profanations of the Lord's Day, called Sunday*; and all other laws now in force for the punishment and suppressing any of the vices aforesaid; and also to suppress and prevent all gaming whatsoever in public or private houses on the Lord's Day; and likewise that they take effectual care to prevent all persons keeping taverns, chocolate houses, coffee houses, or other public houses whatsoever, from selling wine, chocolate, coffee, ale, beer, or other liquors, or receiving or permitting guests to be or remain in such their houses in time of Divine Service on the Lord's Day, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon pain of our highest displeasure. And, for the more effectual proceeding herein, we do hereby direct and command all our Judges of Assize, and Justices of the Peace, to give strict charge to their respective assizes and sessions, for the due prosecution and punishment of all persons that shall presume to offend in any of the crimes aforesaid; and also of all persons that, contrary to their duty, shall be remiss or negligent in putting the said laws in execution; and that they do, at their respective assizes and quarter sessions of the peace, cause this our Royal Proclamation to be publicly read in open Court immediately before the charge is given. And we do hereby further charge and command every Minister, in his respective parish church or chapel, to read this our Proclamation at least four times in every year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective auditors to the practice of piety and virtue, and the avoiding of all immorality and profaneness. And, to the end that all vice and debauchery may be prevented, and religion and virtue practised by all officers, private soldiers, mariners, and others, who are employed in our service by sea and land, we do hereby strictly charge and command

mand all our commanders and officers whatsoever, that they do take care to avoid all profaneness, debauchery, and other immorality; and that, by their own good and virtuous lives and conversation, they do set good examples to all such as are under their care and authority; and likewise take care of and inspect the behaviour of all such as are under them, and punish all those who shall be guilty of any of the offences aforesaid, as they will be answerable for the ill consequences of their neglect herein. Given at our Court at St. James's, the first day of June One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-seven, in the Twenty-seventh Year of Our Reign.

GOD save the KING.

Meanwhile, the Magistrates of the County of Middlesex were not wholly inattentive to their duty; their Committee having, in this interval, carefully revised and considered the Penal Laws, so far as they respect not only the general welfare of the community, but also the particulars adverted to, both in the Royal Proclamation, and in the Representation of the Grand Jury; an Abstract of them was produced, which they directed to be printed on a broad sheet of paper, in such a manner as to render them obvious to the reader at one view, and which might be framed and hung up in parish vestry-rooms, or other places of public resort. A copy of it, in a reduced form, is annexed to this publication.

An opportunity soon presented itself, of communicating these proceedings to a very large meeting of the Justices of the County, who were

were convened in consequence of a letter from one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in order to consider the subjects set forth in the Royal Proclamation; which letter, addressed to the Clerk of the Peace (in the present vacancy of the Lord Lieutenancy of this County), it is here thought proper to transcribe.

Whitehall, June 2, 1787.

SIR,

IN consequence of the depredations which have been committed in every part of the kingdom, and which have of late been carried to such an extent as to be a disgrace to a civilized nation, His Majesty has thought it expedient again to issue His Royal Proclamation, directing the strict execution of the laws which have been made, and are still in force, against the Profanation of the LORD's-DAY, Drunkenness, Swearing, Cursing, and other disorderly practices.

I transmit to you herewith six copies of the said Proclamation; and I am commanded to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure, that you do take the most early opportunity of convening the Magistrates within your District; and enjoining them, in the strongest terms, to pursue the most effectual methods for putting the laws in execution, and for encouraging all officers and persons, to exert their utmost diligence, in their several stations, for the prevention of such dangerous offences.

The inattention which seems of late to have been shewn in the granting Licences to Public-houses, and other places of public entertainment, without paying the least regard to their situation, or even the characters of the persons who undertake their management, is, amongst others, a matter which requires an immediate considera-

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tion, not only for remedying the evil upon future occasions, but for diminishing the number of those Public-houses which do not evidently appear to be calculated for public utility and convenience.

I am persuaded that I need not call upon you for your active assistance, in the pursuit of measures, so evidently calculated for the public good; as you must be convinced, that the exertions of all persons in authority are now become absolutely and indispensably necessary, even for the preservation of the lives and properties of His Majesty's subjects. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

SYDNEY.

H. Collingwood Selby, Esq.
Clerk of the Peace of
Middlesex.

This produced a meeting of the Justices, on Wednesday June 20, 1787.

The Magistrates being thus convened, the Chairman, in a short speech, opened the business of the meeting, and seemed particularly desirous, that the late Proclamation, which had called them together, might not be considered as a mere matter of form and a thing of course, but as the result of his Majesty's deep and paternal concern, on finding such a prevalence of the most flagrant enormities amongst his subjects, as demanded the exertion of all that power, which, for the wisest

and

and best of purposes, is lodged in the hands of the civil magistrate.

The Chairman then laid before the Meeting the proceedings of the Committee, together with the Abstract of the Penal Laws, which apply immediately to the subjects both of the Proclamation and the Representation then lying before them: And informed them, that the Abstract above-mentioned, together with the Representation signed by the Grand Jury, had been sent to the several Parishes in the County of Middlesex, as appears from the following minutes of the Meeting.

MIDDLESEX. At a General Meeting of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Middlesex, holden at the Session-house on Clerkenwell-Green, on Wednesday the Twentieth day of June, in the Twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, King of Great Britain, &c. convened, in consequence of a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Sydney, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, for the purpose of taking into consideration His Majesty's Royal Proclamation for the encouragement of Piety and Virtue; and for preventing and punishing of Vice, Profaneness, and Immorality.

Present,

William Mainwaring Esquire, *Chairman.*

Sir Robert Taylor, Knt.	James Croft, Esq.
Edward Montagu, Esq.	Rupert Clarke, Esq.
The Rev. Dr. Glasse.	Edward Read, Esq.
The Rev. Dr. Mayo.	Samuel Wegg, Esq.
Nathaniel Conant, Esq.	Peter Greene, Esq.
Herbert Whitfield, Esq.	Joseph Girdler, Esq.

Charles Triquet, Esq.
 William Bleamire, Esq.
 David Wilmot, Esq.
 William Gascoigne, Esq.
 Anthony Dickins, Esq.
 Edw. Burnaby Green, Esq.
 Robert Smith, Esq.
 Edmund Armstrong, Esq.
 William Hyde, Esq;
 William Gowan, Esq.

Thomas Cogan, Esq.
 William Coleman, Esq
 Nicholas Forster, Esq.
 Edward Webster, Esq.
 John Staples, Esq.
 Edward Gray, Esq.
 William Blackmore, Esq.
 Rice Davies, Esq.
 David Walker, Esq.

William Mainwaring, Esq the Chairman of the Sessions, informed the Meeting, " That in consequence of a New Proclamation, issued by His Majesty's command on the 1st day of June instant, and of a letter received from the Right Honourable Lord Sydney, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, he had convened the Magistrates to take the same into their consideration, and to determine what methods were most proper to be pursued for putting the laws in execution respecting the several matters mentioned in the Proclamation and Letter.

The Proclamation and Letter were accordingly read.

The Chairman then informed the Meeting, that, previous to the issuing His Majesty's Proclamation, *viz.* at the General Session of the Peace, holden for this County, on the 24th May, 1787, a Representation had been presented to the Court by the Grand Jury.

The said Representation, together with the Proceedings had thereon (as recited in page 28.), were then read.

The Chairman then informed the Meeting,

That the Committee had directed printed copies of the said Representation, together with an Extract of several acts of parliament, relating to the matters specified in the Representation, to be sent to every parish in the county, with the following letter:

To the MINISTER, CHURCH WARDENS, PARISH and
PEACE OFFICERS of the Parish of

GENTELEMEN,

HIS Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, having received from the Grand Juryat their last General Session of the Peace held at *Clerkenwell*, on *Thursday May* the 24th, 1787, a Representation of divers Irregularities and Enormities, which call for the active Exertions of the Magistrates and Parish Officers, and a more vigorous Execution of the Laws; And it being their earnest wish that the good Purposes of the said Representation should be carried into Effect; They have thought proper to transmit the same, together with the very respectable Names thereto subscribed, to the several Parishes in this County. And that the Laws respecting the several Matters complained of may be generally known, they have subjoined Extracts from such of them as relate to the same, hoping that the Parish Officers and principal Inhabitants will exert themselves to see that the said Laws be duly carried into Execution in Matters of so much Consequence to the good Order as well as to the Happiness of the People.

The Magistrates think it their Duty to recommend it to every Parish to pay a particular Attention to that Part of the Representation which respects the Profanation of the Lord's Day, the Disorders committed in Ale-houses, and the great Increase in the number of Vagrants, as the most important and essential steps towards putting a Stop to the Evils complained of.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

HENRY COLLINGWOOD SELBY.

Clerk of the Peace for the County of Middlesex.

P. S. It is requested that a Vestry be called on the first Sunday or other convenient Day after the receipt of this Letter, to consider what Steps are most proper to be taken in the Business above-mentioned.

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The Chairman having thus stated to the Meeting the proceedings of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, previous to the issuing His Majesty's Proclamation, the matter of the said Proclamation was taken into consideration.

Several inconveniences having been stated to the Meeting, to arise from the present mode of granting Licenses to persons keeping Ale-houses, and also from the present practice of assigning over licences;

Resolved, That it be referred to a Committee, to inquire into and state the same particularly; and to consider how the licensing of Public-houses may be better regulated in future; and that they report their opinion thereon to the next General Quarter Session, to be holden for this County; and that Edward Montagu, William Bleamire, Nathaniel Conant, Esquires; the Rev. Samuel Glasse, D. D. Samuel Wegge and Edward Webster, Esquires; and any other gentlemen who think proper to attend, or any three or more of them, be such Committee; and that they meet and adjourn, from time to time, at pleasure.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several Magistrates of this County, to confer with the Minister, Parish Officers, and Principal Inhabitants, in their respective Districts, touching the Causes of the several Enormities mentioned and alluded to in his Majesty's Proclamation: and that the said Magistrates do to the utmost of their Power co-operate with them in pursuing the most effectual measures for the immediate suppression of such enormities.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Justices attending the licensing of Public-houses, to pay a particular attention to the characters and conduct of the Publicans within their respective Divisions; and that they do their endeavours to obtain a true and impartial account of each Public-house within their respective Divisions, and of the manner in which it has been conducted during the preceeding year, to be laid before them at a previous General Meeting to be held by them, for the purpose of examining the same; and that His Majesty's Justices of the Peace have notice of these two Resolutions.

On the 12th day of July following, the Committee, appointed to examine into the inconveniences arising from the manner of granting Licences to persons keeping Public-houses, &c. made their Report to the Justices in Quarter Sessions, when the following Resolutions were adopted, and ordered to be printed and sent to every acting Magistrate in the County.

Resolved, That the Recommendation of His Majesty's Secretary of State, respecting the licencing of Public Houses, demands the most serious attention of the Kingdom in general, and particularly this County.

Resolved, That the Reduction of the number of Licensed houses is not only expedient, but highly necessary, when it can be effected without inconvenience to the publick; that, when it has been found necessary to suppress any Publick-house, no other should be licenced in its room, unless absolute necessity should require it.

Resolved, That it appears necessary, for the public safety, that, in granting licences, great regard should be paid, not only to the characters of the persons proposed, but also to the situation of their houses, very great evils being known to arise from such as are sequestered and remote from publick view.

Resolved, That the admission of improper persons as sureties, in the recognizances, is an evil which calls loudly for redress, and therefore too great care cannot be taken by the Magistrates in requiring proper sureties for the good behaviour of Publicans.

Resolved, That the practice of Magistrates, in some divisions, appears to the Committee highly worthy of general imitation, who require the names of the intended sureties for the good behaviour of Publicans shall be delivered to the High Constables, on or before the 1st day of August in every year, to be transmitted by them to the Justices in their respective Divisions, six days at least before the Licensing Day.

Resolved, That particular attention to the nature of Certificates and Recommendations, for obtaining Licences, seems an object of the utmost importance; and that it will be

be a great instance of prudence and discretion in the Magistrates to be very strict in their inquiry into the characters of those who sign them.

Resolved, That any Publican's permission of skittle grounds, or any places, means, or instruments, for gaming or unlawful pastime, within his premises, is of very mischievous consequence; in absolute defiance of the subsisting laws, and in direct violation of the condition of his Recognizance.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, that no Licence be granted to any Publican who permits the aforesaid practices.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Justices, to grant no Licences to houses in which beer has not usually been sold in the preceding year, except the same shall have been used as taverns, victualling houses, inns, or coffee-houses.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Magistrates, in every division, to hold a Petty Session some time in the month of August annually, in order to take into consideration such measures respecting the licensing of public houses, as may be adopted for the general good.

It being suggested to the Court, that it frequently happens, in cases where licences are refused at the General licensing time, either on account of the bad character of the person applying, or on account of the improper situation of the house for which the licence is desired; applications are made to His Majesty's Justices, after such General Licensing time, on behalf of a New Occupier; and the Justices, at a Petty Session, frequently grant licences to such occupiers to draw beer till the next General licensing time, and inconveniences have been found to arise therefrom:

Resolved, That it be recommended to his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, that no such licences be granted at any Petty Session held after such General Meeting, without previous notice given to the Justices who attended such General Meeting, and the consent of the major part of the Justices attending such Petty Session being first obtained.

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I should add, that the City of London, in consequence of the King's Proclamation, appointed a Committee to consider the most proper methods to carry into execution the several laws against the Profanation of the LORD'S-DAY, and against Drunkenness, Swearing, &c. and other enormities, of late grown to so alarming an height; this Committee made a report to the Court of Aldermen, on the 17th day of July, which, after some debate, was referred back to the same Committee to reconsider: I am unable therefore to recite their proceedings in this place.

Thus, Sir, have I given you as exact an account as I could of the several proceedings which have hitherto taken place, on a business of the utmost importance to the honour and happiness and welfare of our Sovereign and his kingdoms: concerning which, various opinions will doubtless be entertained, and very different judgements will be formed, as the matter happens to present itself either to a sanguine or a phlegmatic disposition: the one foresees an universal Utopian change of manners and behaviour, *facile sperans quod exceptat*; the other coldly despairs of any reformation at all; exclaiming *Actum est Periimus*. The former we would wish to guard against disappointment, by intreating him not to expect moral impossibilities: The latter we would

remind of the folly of those seamen, who, in a storm, lie on their oars, and commit themselves without hope to the merciless elements, devoting themselves to unavoidable destruction. Our case is by no means so desperate as these gloomy politicians would represent it. The disease, though bad, is by no means incurable ; a proper application of the several remedies within our own reach would, in a short time, be found to produce the most salutary effects ; and we might indulge the reasonable expectation of soon becoming a better, and consequently an happier people. But a general reformation certainly depends not merely on the vigorous exertions of the Magistrate, nor even on the animated exhortations of the Clergy, many of whom have gladly embraced the opportunity, given them by his Majesty's late Proclamation, to rouse their respective congregations to a better regard to their duty ; far more good might be expected from a due attention in individuals of the highest order, to their own particular conduct.

For example : The Magistrate may, and he certainly ought to, send out the Parish Officers, to apprehend the poor Plebeian, who shall be known to be mis-employing his time, in any species of gambling on the LORD's-Day. The general good of his neighbours, and the good order and regulation of society, require that such a daring violation of the laws of God and

and Man should not pass unnoticed, uncensured, or unpunished. But is it not possible, that within the same district, some person of high rank or great opulence may reside, in whose house cards, dice, music, dancing, and every species of dissipation and improper behaviour, are admitted and allowed without reserve? Were these salutary regulations then made only for the poor; and is the same Act perfectly allowable and innocent in the one case, and punishable, without mitigation or excuse, in the other? May the rich man or the Nobleman lose his thousands on this or any other day with impunity; while the labourer or the servant (encouraged perhaps by a practice, which once he thought shocking, but to which he is now familiarized and reconciled) loses his pence, or perhaps his time, which it is his misfortune neither to know how to estimate, nor how to improve? The encouragement given to this, or any other vice, by the Great, who take advantage of their situation, as though they were out of the reach of the law, must needs embarrass every conscientious Magistrate; who cannot but feel, that he is hardly administering Justice "truly and indifferently," when the great offender, whose transgressions are less to be excused, is suffered to persist in them totally undisturbed, while the ignorant peasant is punished without mercy.

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The reform, in short, must be *personal*; and he that is careful to reform *one*, is an essential benefactor to society. He that extends his care from his own person, to those of his children and domestics, rises in estimation as a public benefactor; and if his portion is among the Great, great will be the benefit derived from his conduct, to the community at large, from the good effects of his influence and example. The establishment of Parochial Societies appears to be a very desirable measure, in order to promote the reformation so much desired; and of these I will venture to give some outlines; not doubting, at the same time, that much better might, and sincerely hoping that they will, be suggested by those who have more deeply considered the subject, and have more time than falls to my share, to digest them; they are, however, such as follow:

RULES for the Establishment and Regulation of a SOCIETY for the Preservation of Peace, Good Order, and Sobriety, in any City, Town, or Village in the Kingdom.

1. That this Society do consist of Persons truly desirous of promoting the objects of its establishment, as mentioned above.
2. That they meet every *first* and *third* Sunday in every month, in vestry, after morning service, where only morning service is performed, or where that time is found to be most convenient: at other times, and in other cases, after evening service; and where there is no convenient vestry-room, at the house of the Church-warden, or

or other parish-officer, or other parishioner, as shall be agreed on.

3. That the Minister, Church-wardens, Overseers of the poor (and where he resides, the High Constable), be constant members of this society; and that any gentleman of fortune, character, and influence, is always considered as a valuable acquisition, when his attendance can be obtained.

4. That the object of their meetings be to consult, how they may more effectually promote the good purposes of his Majesty's late Proclamation; and forward the designs of those, who are intent on bringing about a reformation of manners.

5. That this Society do encourage and assist parish and peace officers in the discharge of their duty; which particularly requires them to give *information* of disorderly houses, and unlawful practices, of what kind soever, within their respective limits; thereby removing, as much as possible, that odium, which bad men find it their interest to affix to the character of *informers*; and which indeed is odious, when it is assumed for the purpose of gratifying a malignant, or self-interested disposition; but highly respectable, when assumed for the purpose of promoting peace and regularity.

6. That if any Justice of the peace be present, he be chairman: and otherwise, that the Minister of the Parish, or in his absence the senior Church-warden, preside; and that the Parish Clerk if competent, or the Vestry Clerk where there is such an officer, or in other cases that the Minister, or any other member that will kindly take upon him that trouble, do enter in a minute-book the proceedings of every meeting, to which the majority of the persons present shall have consented.

7. That this Society do give all possible encouragement to Parochial FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, to which every member, it is hoped, will be an *honorary subscriber*, contributing to it according to his ability.

8. That the monthly meeting of such FRIENDLY SOCIETY be held on the *third* Sunday in every month, either at the church, or wherever the members of this Society

Society of Reform shall hold their meeting, provided, that no such meeting be ever holden at a Public House; there to pay into the hands of the chairman, or other substantial inhabitant of the parish, their *four* weekly payments; he having previously given such security as by the *Friendly Society* shall be thought necessary.

9. That the rules and orders of such *Friendly Society* shall be read to the members of it, by the Chairman of this Meeting, every Quarter; and that they be established according to the best plan * now existing, subject to such alterations and improvements as may hereafter be suggested and approved of.

10. That this Society of Reform do from time to time enquire, how far the Laws (of which a printed abstract shall be framed, and always lie before them when they meet) have been observed; and in what instances they have been violated; and how far the proper officers have exerted themselves, or have been remiss, in carrying those laws into execution.

11. That the chairman do remind such members as have not been regular in their attendance, of the great importance of the business they are engaged in, and of the necessity of patience and perseverance therein.

12. That, in cases of doubt and difficulty, this Society do take the opinion and direction of such as are learned in the law; that no step may be taken, where the law will not fully justify them.

13. That the general purposes of a reformation of manners be kept in view, and pursued without ostentation and without rigour; that every prudential method be used to maintain the respectability of such a society; that the authority of the Magistrate and those appointed to act under him be supported to the utmost; and every encouragement be given to an active and effectual execution of the laws.

14. That all expences attending the prosecution of offenders, and every contingent expence of the several meetings, be defrayed by the overseers of the poor, to be allowed in their accompts, when delivered at the expiration of their office; provided such expence shall have been in-

* See a Proposal at the End of the Appendix.

curred, with the consent of the majority of the members of this Society.

N. B. It is earnestly hoped, that where one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace is resident in any Parish wherein such a Society is established, he will become a member of it, and contribute the sanction of his name and authority.

I should add one word more respecting *Informers*; which name is rendered odious, because most who appear under that character, assume it only for bad purposes: malice, hatred, self-interest, every motive but the right one, induce men to step forth, to give information of offences against the laws. Seldom, if ever, is such information brought forward with a sincere intention to do good. If Parish and Peace Officers could be induced to think that it is their *duty* to do that which they have *sworn* to do, they would then be ready to assist the endeavours of the Magistrates, by dragging concealed offenders into light, and subjecting them to the punishment which their crimes deserve. It is the interest of every evil-minded person to stamp a mark of infamy, if he can, upon the character of an Informer; but every wise and good Magistrate will know how to draw the line of distinction; and will consider every person, acting in this capacity from motives of duty and conscience, as an useful coadjutor in a most important and excellent work.

I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A JUSTICE OF MIDDLESEX.

D

APPEND.

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A P P E N D I X.

THE facts stated in the following Memorial being unquestionably true, it seems by no means improper to insert the substance of it in this publication: that the reader may be convinced of the necessity of those steps which have been taken, and of those which, we trust, will yet be taken, to suppress such horrible enormities, and to bring, as well the aiders and abettors of them, as the perpetrators themselves to condign punishment.

The substance of a Memorial of certain Trustees for regulating the nightly watch, as delivered to the worshipful His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the county of Middlesex, at their General Session of the Peace, held at Clerkenwell May 22, 1787,

WHICH sheweth, "That within the Liberty of are several streets and places, wherein the obscurity of the situation, and other circumstances, combine to draw together the lowest and most abandoned part of the community to reside.

D 2

" That

“ That these wretched places have for a long time rivalled each other in the infamy of their inhabitants; but in one court in particular, all the houses are leased to a man of infamous character, whose income, which is very considerable, arises from his extortions in the name of rent. In this court there are upwards of twenty houses, which are lett out, ready furnished as it is called, in separate rooms or tenements; for the reception of inmates, to the amount of several hundreds in the whole. For though there is no more than one bed in each room, there are usually two or three, and sometimes even four occupiers of that one room and bed. These rooms are furnished with a stump bedstead, a flock bed, a pair of sheets (frequently only one sheet), a blanket or two, a chair or two (generally without backs), and a grate, generally without shovel, tongs, or poker. And the sheets are usually marked with the name of the owner, and the words *Stop thief* are added for obvious reasons.

“ In another alley are about *twelve* houses rented by persons of very bad character, and by them let out in tenements as above; which tenements afford accommodation for about one hundred inmates of the above description, viz. thieves and prostitutes. In another alley are nearly the same number of houses rented by infamous persons, and let out by them to a like number of inmates of the same sort, viz. to inhabitants in the whole to the number of

400, consisting of whores, pickpockets, footpads, housebreakers, and thieves of every description, and from all quarters of the town ; who, invited by the countenance, accommodation, and impunity, which they enjoy in these places, constantly resort thither, the houses being continually lighted and kept open all night by the prostitutes who reside in them, for the reception of such of the male inmates as are detained abroad by their respective infamous occupations ; or any other men who may be so unfortunate as to fall in their way, and be beguiled by them. The wretches harboured here were heretofore more reserved and cautious in their conduct ; but by success and impunity they have been encouraged to throw off all restraint, and act now at *mid-day*, as openly, and with as much villainy and audacity, as at *midnight*, to the great terror of their neighbours, and the inhabitants of the whole district.

“ Beside the kind of tenements already described, there are also many common twopenny lodging houses, where great numbers of rogues, vagabonds and prostitutes are harboured : one man in particular makes up every night 35 beds, and takes in men and women to lodge in them, at 2 d. or 3 d. a night ; but if a man and woman come in together, he receives one shilling a night for the two.

“ It is impossible to enumerate the many instances of villainy, rapine, disorder, and inde-

cency, which are continually committed in these places by the gangs that are harboured therein, over and above the innumerable depredations which no doubt are committed by them on the public at large: it may not, however be unnecessary to state a few particular facts, to evince the propriety and the necessity of this application to the Magistrates.

“ 1. A common prostitute lately apprehended in one of these houses declared, that when she robs a man in the house, the mistress has half of the plunder; and that this is the common practice of the house.

“ 2. Another disorderly prostitute, being apprehended, declared that when she took a man home, the mistress has half the prostitution money, and half the plunder which she gets from the man; and she spoke of this, as the common practice of the house.

“ 3. One of the constables going to suppress some disorder to one of these houses discovered several men in smock frocks, who could give no good account of themselves, and who, he doubts not, are a gang of thieves.

“ 4. Another constable early on Sunday morning, May 13, hearing a cry of *murder*, went to one of these houses, and found two men and six women, fighting and rioting together in a most indecent and disorderly manner.

“ 5. A man was lately decoyed into one of these houses, and stripped of every thing he had (even his shirt), and in the morning was

obliged to wrap one of the blankets round him, and in that situation to go home, not being able to prevail with any people there to apply to his friends or acquaintance for cloaths.

“ 6. Another prostitute, a mulatto, now in the Workhouse, declares that for four years she used to lie in the same room, where were two beds, with three other common prostitutes; and that she and the three others all picked up and brought men home to this one room; and on a *Saturday night* all four would sometimes bring home a man apiece; in which case, they and the men lay together in the room in the best way they could contrive. In these cases the men paid a shilling apiece to the mistress of the house; and the prostitutes, kept the prostitution money themselves. But when a man was robbed by these prostitutes or either of them, it was the constant custom for the mistress of the house to share half the robbery money. This practice of sharing the robbery money is an invariable rule in all the houses of this sort in the neighbourhood. Not long since, a gentleman was decoyed into one of these houses, and robbed of seven guineas and his watch; the prostitute had half the money; and the watch was *fenced*, that is, sent to a receiver of stolen goods, who gave a few shillings for it; half of which fence-money went to the prostitute: and in all instances of robbery, the money is divided as aforesaid, and the other property, not consist-

ing of money, stolen or robbed, is first fenced, and then divided as aforesaid.

“ 7. Lastly, a few days since, a Jew who was crying old cloaths was called into one of these houses at *noon day* by a prostitute, that was looking out at the window, and pretended that she had a gown and coat to sell: as soon as he got into the room, the Jew was attacked by three men, one of whom put a knife to his throat; upon which he immediately ran to the window, and called out, *Murder!* notwithstanding which, the villains cut him with the knife in several places, and then knocked him down stairs; not content therewith, they followed him into the open street, and there beat him in a terrible manner, in sight of the whole neighbourhood, and then walked away with as much composure as if nothing had happened, no one offering to interfere in the Jew’s behalf; however, one of these men was soon after apprehended, and is in custody to be tried for the said offence.”

(Then follows a recital of a certain number of public houses, with their descriptions, characters, &c. not one of which we may venture, without the gift of prophesy, to foretell will be licenced, at the next day of public licensing:) “ At the door of one of these houses there is generally a gang of desperate pickpockets, who rob even in the day time with the greatest audacity, and who will even hold up the handkerchief, or other property which they have stolen,

stolen, and shake it with an air of triumph and defiance at the person from whom they have taken it; and if the person robbed should make any resistance, or endeavour to apprehend the robber, the whole gang would assuredly fall on him; but if the gang is at any time likely to be overpowered, it then finds a safe retreat in this alehouse, where no one or two persons durst follow for fear of being murdered.

“ In all or most of these places, the practice of every enormity is conducted by these wretches with a constancy and regularity, bordering upon system: the prostitutes having their beats, and stands, as regular and uniform as the watchmen; and when any one prostitute intrudes upon the beat of another, it is considered as an invasion of right, and generally attended with a quarrel; sometimes a battle: a short time since one of the girls having got out of her limits was attacked, severely beaten, and had her head cut in a shocking manner, by some of those who considered that *walk* as their exclusive right.

“ The prostitutes in this neighbourhood are frequently seen in the day time sitting out in the street, playing at cards, drinking gin, and are heard uttering the most horrid and blasphemous expressions: and when any decent persons are passing by, especially decent women, it is a very common practice with them to be guilty of every kind of indecency in words and actions.

“ It is well known, that scarcely a session of gaol-delivery passes, without some one or more being hanged from this part of the town ; and the dead bodies of the malefactors are frequently brought back after execution to their old lodgings, till they can some way or other be disposed of.

“ All which the memorialists think it their duty to submit to the consideration of this Court ; not doubting that such steps will be taken, as the Court shall see most adviseable and expedient, for the security of their fellow citizens, the conservation of the peace, and the general safety of the public at large.”

This very shocking representation to the Court, made a deep impression on the minds of the Magistrates ; and we doubt not will be remembered, *with effect*, at the approaching time of licensing public houses.

In the mean while the Court thought proper to send the following letter to the Trustees who presented the Memorial.

To

To the Trustees for regulating the Nightly Watch within
the Liberty of

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed, by his Majesty's Justices of the peace for the County of Middlesex, in Session assembled, to acquaint you, that upon perusal of the Memorial of Trustees for regulating the Nightly Watch and Beadle within the Liberty of

The Court are of opinion, that the suppression of the several enormities mentioned in the said Memorial is not a matter which can be remedied by the Quarter Session in the first instance; but they are extremely willing and desirous to lend every assistance in their power, to remedy the several evils complained of, whenever the same shall be brought before them, either individually as Magistrates, or collectively at the Sessions; and recommend the following methods to be pursued by the Trustees and the Parish, for the suppression of these mischiefs, *viz.* An Application to the Justices at the General Licensing Day, laying before them the complaints now alledged against the several Ale-houses mentioned in the Memorial; stating that they are ready with evidence to authenticate the same. The Court have no doubt but that the Magistrates will do their duty in consequence of such a representation by refusing to grant Licences for such Houses.

The Court also recommend it to the Parish to Indict the Persons keeping the Bawdy and other disorderly Houses.

As to the reputed Thieves and Vagabonds there harboured, upon Application to the Magistrates, they will from time to time grant General and Special Search Warrants, for the purposes of apprehending all suspicious persons found within the places mentioned; and the Court recommend it to the Memorialists to prosecute them in the manner directed by the Vagrant Act of the 17th of Geo. II.

If

If the Parish will vigorously pursue the several methods hereby recommended, the Court have no doubt but that the several enormities, now complained of, will be in a great measure removed, and the Neighbourhood, as well as the Public at large, receive great advantage from their laudable exertions.

I am, &c.

Tho. STERLING,

Dep. Cl. P.

A Pro-

A Proposal to the Parishioners of
 to form themselves into a Friendly Society, for
 the Support of each other in Sickness and Old
 Age, and some Allowance for those who may
 have more than Two Children living under Eight
 Years of Age. Every Subscriber, after One Year
 from the Time of subscribing, in Case of Illness,
 to receive Benefit in Proportion to the Sum he or
 she shall subscribe, from 2d. per Week up to 1s.
 as is expressed in the following Table; and under
 such Regulations and Orders as shall be made
 from Time to Time by Themselves or their Com-
 mittee.

A Weekly Subscriber of	Shall be entitled to receive Weekly,						
	In Bedlyng Illness.	Walking Illness.	For every Child more than two*.	65 Years of Age.	70 Years of Age.	75 or before incapable of Labour.	
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
2	6 0	2 6	1 3	1 0	1 6	3 6	
3	7 0	3 0	1 6	1 0	1 9	4 0	
4	8 6	3 6	1 9	1 3	2 0	4 6	
5	9 0	4 0	1 9	1 3	2 0	4 9	
6	9 3	4 0	1 9	1 6	2 0	5 0	
7	9 6	4 3	1 9	1 6	2 3	5 3	
8	10 0	4 6	1 9	1 9	2 3	5 6	
9	10 3	4 6	1 9	2 0	2 6	5 9	
10	10 6	4 6	1 9	2 0	2 6	6 0	
11	10 9	4 6	1 9	2 3	2 9	6 3	
12	11 0	5 0	1 9	2 3	3 0	6 6	

And Two Guineas for a Member's Funeral.

N. B. Bedlyng illness is when a person is so unwell as not to be capable of earning any thing.—Walking illness, when the man is not able to earn more than 6d. per day, or the woman not more than 3d.

* Children must be all under 8 years of age to entitle the parents to receive pay.

Parishioners, Men and Women, married and unmarried, will be admitted into this Society under 50 Years of Age, that are in Health, if approved by the Committee for the Time being, on paying the following Sums at Entrance:—Under 25 Years of Age, one Month's Subscription; 25 to 30, Six Months;—30 to 35, Twelve Months,—35 to 40, Eighteen Months;—40 to 45, Two Years;—45 to 50, Two Years and a Half Subscription.





Abstract of various L A W S for the

Authorities	
NO Person whatever, above 14 Years of Age, shall work, or exercise his ordinary Calling on a Sunday	29 Car. II. c. 7
No Drover, Horse Courier, Waggoner, Butcher, Higgler, or their Servants, shall Travel on a Sunday	ditto
No Boats or Barges to be used on a Sunday, unless allowed by a Justice	ditto
No Fruit, Herbs, or Goods of any Kind, shall be cried or exposed to Sale on a Sunday	ditto
No Shoemaker shall expose to Sale upon a Sunday any Boots, Shoes, or Slippers	1 Jac. c. 22
Profanation of the Lord's Day.	
No Person shall kill Game on a Sunday	13 Geo. III. c. 80
No Person, without reasonable Excuse, shall be absent from some Place of Divine Worship one Sunday	1 Eliz. c. 2
Exceptions. Fish Carriages are allowed to travel on Sundays.—Works of Necessity and Charity may be done on Sundays	29 W. III. c. 15 & 29 C.
Meat may be dressed in Families, Inns, Cook Shops, and Victualling Houses	29 Car. II. c. 7
Milk may be sold before 9 in the Morning, and after 4 in the Afternoon	10 & 11 W. III. c. 24
Mackerel may be sold on Sundays, before and after Divine Service	9 An. c. 23 & 11 & 12 V.
Hackney Coachmen and Chairmen in London, and 40 Watermen on the Thames, may work on Sundays	5 Geo. III. c. 46
Drunkenness.	
No Person shall keep an Alehouse, or sell Ale by Retail, without a Licence	1 J. c. 9 & 21 J. c. 7
No Inn-keeper or Alehouse-keeper shall suffer any one to continue drinking or tipling in his House	ditto
Except the Person is a Traveller, or is invited by a Traveller	ditto
Or a Labourer, or Handicraftsman, who stays one Hour to dine, or who lodges in the House	ditto
Or upon an urgent Occasion, to be allowed by two Justices	ditto
No Person to continue drinking or tipling in a Public House (unless he is one of those above excepted)	4 J. c. 5
No Person shall be drunk	ditto & 21 J. c. 7
Inn-keepers convicted of Drunkenness shall moreover be disabled from keeping a Public House for 3 Years, and for Misconduct shall forfeit their Recognizance	ditto & 26 Geo. II. c.
Profane Cursing and Swearing.	
Every Day Labourer, Common Soldier or Seaman, who shall profanely Curse or Swear every other Person, under the Degree of a Gentleman, who, &c.	19 Geo. II. c. 21
Every Person, of or above the Degree of a Gentleman, who, &c.	ditto
Lewdness.	
Open and public Acts of Lewdness and Indecency are punishable	1 Hawk. 7, and 3 Bur.
Keepers of a Bawdy-house subject to the same Punishment	1 Hawk. 196, and 25 C.
Frequenters of such a House may be bound to good Behaviour	2 Hawk. 61
All obscene Books, Pictures, and Prints, are Libels against Government, and the Publishers may be punished	Strange's Reports, 780
Gaming.	
No Person shall set up or keep any Gaming-house by way of Lottery, Faro, Bassett, Hazard, and all Games at Dice, except Backgammon, are within this Act	12 G. II. c. 28, 13 G.
No Person shall adventure in such Lotteries or Games	ditto
No Persons shall expose or keep a Lottery	10 & 11 W. III. c. 17
No Person shall play at such Lottery	ditto
No Persons shall sell Lands or Goods by Lottery	8 Geo. II. c. 2
No Person shall adventure in such Lottery	ditto
No Keeper of a Public House shall suffer any Journeyman, Labourer, Servant, or Apprentice, to game in his House or Ground	30 Geo. II. c. 24
No Journeyman, Labourer, Servant, or Apprentice, shall game in a Public House, or in Ground belonging to it	ditto
No Person shall start or run a Horse for a less Prize or Sum than £.50	13 Geo. II. c. 19
If any Person lose at any Game £.10 at one Sitting, or £.20 within 24 Hours, and pay it, he may recover it back within 3 Months	9 An. c. 14
If the Loser does not recover the Sum lost in 3 Months, any other Person may recover the same, with treble Value and Costs besides	ditto
Loser or Winner of £.10 at one Sitting, or £.20 within 24 Hours, may be fined	18 Geo. II. c. 34
Persons winning Money at Gaming by Fraud	9 An. c. 14
If any one assaults, beats, or challenges to fight another, on account of a Gaming Debt	ditto
All Notes, Bills, Bonds, Judgements, Mortgages, and Securities for a Gaming Debt, or for Money lent to game with, are absolutely void	ditto

the better Ordering of Society.

Authorities	Penalties	Application	Jurisdiction or Mode of Punish [men]
c. 7	5s. and for default Stocks 2 hours	To the Poor, except that the Informer may be allowed not more than one-third	1 Justice
	20s. and for default ditto	ditto	ditto
	5s. and for default ditto	ditto	ditto
	Forfeiture of the Goods	ditto	ditto
c. 22	3s. 4d. per Pair and the Value of [them]	One-third to the King, one-3d to Prosecutor, and one-3d to the Town or Lord of the Leet	Affizes, Sessions, or Leet
o. III. c. 80	10l. to 20l. for the 1st Offence	Half to the Poor	1st and 2d Offences by 1 Justice
	20l. to 30l. 2d ditto	Half to the Informer	3d ditto by Indictment at Sessions
	50l. 3d ditto		
c. 2	1s.	To the Poor	1 Justice
. III. c. 15 & 29 C. II. c. 7			
r. II. c. 7			
W. III. c. 24 [21]			
c. 23 & 11 & 12 W. III. c. [21]			
o. III. c. 46	40s. 1st Offen. In default Impris- 4l. 2d ditto sonment for 1, 2 6l. 3d ditto and 3 Months	Half to the King Half to the Prosecutor	1 Justice
c. 9 21 J. c. 7	10s. and disabled for 3 Years	To the Poor	ditto
9			
c. 5			
& 21 J. c. 7	3s. 4d.	ditto	ditto
& 26 Geo. II. c. 31	5s. or default Stocks 6 hours for 1st Offence, for 2d Offence to find Sureties in Recog. of 10l.	ditto	ditto
Geo. II. c. 21	1s. 2d Offence double 2s. 3d Offence treble, and for de- 5s. fault House of Corr. 10 days	To the Poor	1 Justice
wk. 7, and 3 Bur. 1435	Fine, Imprisonment, and Pillory		Information or Indictment
wk. 196, and 25 Geo. II. c. [36]		ditto	ditto
wk. 61	By ditto		Information or Indictment*
George's Reports, 788			
G. II. c. 28, 13 G. II. c. 19	£.200	One-third to the Informer Two-thirds to the Poor	1 Justice
	£.20	ditto	ditto
	£.500	One-third to the King, ditto to the Poor, ditto with double Costs to Prosecutor	Action
	£.20	ditto	ditto
o. II. c. 2	£.500, Imprisonm. for 1 Year, and till Penalty be paid	ditto	2 Justices
	Double the Sum contributed	Half to the King Half to the Prosecutor	Action
Geo. II. c. 24	40s. 1st Offence £.10 2d ditto	Three-fourths to the Poor One-fourth to the Informer	1 Justice
	5s. to 20s.	ditto	ditto
Geo. II. c. 19	£.200	Half to the Poor Half to the Prosecutor	Action
c. 14			ditto
			ditto
Geo. II. c. 34	Five times the Sum won or lost	To Prosecutor, Witneffes, or Poor, at Discretion of Court	Indictment
c. 14	Fine, Imprisonment, & Pillory, and five times the Sum won	To the Prosecutor	ditto and Action for the Penalt
	All his Goods and Chattels, & Imprisonment for 2 Years	To the King	Information or Indictment
	ditto	By ditto	ditto

	Inn-keepers convicted of Drunkenness shall moreover be disabled from keeping a Public House for 3 Years, and for Misconduct shall forfeit their Recognizance	ditto & 26 Geo. II. c. 26
Profane Cursing and Swearing.	Every Day Labourer, Common Soldier or Seaman, who shall profanely Curse or Swear every other Person, under the Degree of a Gentleman, who, &c. Every Person; of or above the Degree of a Gentleman, who, &c.	19 Geo. II. c. 21 ditto ditto
Lewdness.	Open and public Acts of Lewdness and Indecency are punishable Keepers of a Bawdy-house subject to the same Punishment Frequenters of such a House may be bound to good Behaviour All obscene Books, Pictures, and Prints, are Libels against Government, and the Publishers may be punished	1 Hawk. 7, and 3 Bur 1 Hawk. 196, and 25 2 Hawk. 61 Strange's Reports, 78
Gaming.	No Person shall set up or keep any Gaming-house by way of Lottery, Faro, Bassett, Hazard; and all Games at Dice, except Backgammon, are within this Act No Person shall adventure in such Lotteries or Games No Persons shall expose or keep a Lottery No Person shall play at such Lottery No Persons shall sell Lands or Goods by Lottery No Person shall adventure in such Lottery No Keeper of a Public House shall suffer any Journeyman, Labourer, Servant, or Apprentice, to game in his House or Ground No Journeyman, Labourer, Servant, or Apprentice, shall game in a Public House, or in Ground belonging to it No Person shall start or run a Horse for a less Prize or Sum than £.50 If any Person lose at any Game £.10 at one Sitting, or £.20 within 24 Hours, and pay it, he may recover it back within 3 Months If the Loser does not recover the Sum lost in 3 Months, any other Person may recover the same, with treble Value and Costs besides Loser or Winner of £.10 at one Sitting, or £.20 within 24 Hours, may be fined Persons winning Money at Gaming by Fraud If any one assaults, beats, or challenges to fight another, on account of a Gaming Debt All Notes, Bills, Bonds, Judgements, Mortgages, and Securities for a Gaming Debt, or for Money lent to game with, are absolutely void	12 G. II. c. 28, 13 G. ditto 10 & 11 W. III. c. 17 ditto 8 Geo. II. c. 2 ditto 30 Geo. II. c. 24 ditto 13 Geo. II. c. 19 9 An. c. 14 ditto 18 Geo. II. c. 34 9 An. c. 14 ditto ditto
Vagrants.	Persons who threaten to run away, and to leave their Families upon the Parish Persons who are poor, and refuse to work for the usual Wages Persons who beg in the Street, or from Door to Door in the Parishes where they dwell Any Person who apprehends and carries such a Beggar before a Justice, shall receive 5s. Such a Beggar who resists or escapes, Persons who go about gathering Alms under Pretence of Losses Unlicensed Players, Minstrels, Jugglers, Players or Bettors at unlawful Games, Gypsies, Fortune Tellers Cheats and Impostors, Persons who run away and leave their Families upon the Parish Strollers who cannot give a good Account of themselves, all wandering Beggars Persons who have any Instrument with Intent to break Houses, or any Weapon with Intent to rob Rogues and Vagabonds who make their Escape, who refuse to go before a Justice, or who refuse to be examined who, being warned of their Punishment, give a false Account of themselves who refuse to go to their Settlements, or who commit a second Offence Reward for apprehending any Rogue, Vagabond, or Incorrigible Rogue, and delivering him to a Constable, or conveying him to a Justice, 10s.	17 G. II. c. 5, & 7 J. are Idle and Disorderly Persons are Rogues and Vagabonds ditto 17 G. II. c. 5 23 G. III. c. 88 are Incorrigible Rogues 17 G. II. c. 5 ditto
Weights and Measures.	Persons who sell by false Weights and Measures in Market Towns All Persons using false Weights and Measures by Common Law may be punished	11 Hen. VII. c. 4 4 Blackst. Com. 157
	Church Wardens and Overseers, if they have no good Excuse, shall meet once a Month in the Church, on Sunday, to consider of Means to provide for the Poor Any Room or House kept for Music, Dancing, or Public Entertainment, without a Licence, is disorderly, and the Keeper, or he who manages and acts as Master, forfeits Parishioners not disqualified from being Witnesses against Offenders, though the Penalties may be applied to the Use of the Parish	43 Eliz. c. 2 25 G. II. c. 36 27 G. III.

19. } 2d Offence double
20. } 3d Offence treble, and for de-
21. } fault House of Corr. 10 days

To the Poor

1 Justice

Fine, Imprisonment, and Pillory

By ditto

Information or Indictment

ditto

1 Justice

Information or Indictment*

£.200

£.20

£.500

£.20

£.500, Imprisonm. for 1 Year,
and till Penalty be paid

Double the Sum contributed

40s. 1st Offence }

£.10 2d ditto }

5s. to 20s.

£.200

Five times the Sum won or lost

Fine, Imprisonment, & Pillory,

and five times the Sum won

All his Goods and Chattels, &

Imprisonment for 2 Years

ditto

One-third to the Informer }

Two-thirds to the Poor }

ditto

One-third to the King, ditto to
the Poor, ditto with double

Costs to Prosecutor

ditto

ditto

2 Justices

Action

ditto

ditto

2 Justices

Action

ditto

ditto

Action

ditto

ditto

Indictment

To the Prosecutor

ditto and Action for the Penalt

To the King

Information or Indictment

By ditto

1 Justice

ditto

Action

ditto

ditto

2 Justices

Action

ditto

ditto

Action

ditto

ditto

Action

ditto

ditto

Action

ditto

ditto